

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

John Snellen AI4RT, 2009 RARSfest Chairman

RARSfest 2009: Another Success!

A hearty and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone, volunteers and RARS members, who helped make RARSfest 2009 a resounding success. We have had very positive comments about how well RARSfest was organized and how well our visitors were treated. Our vendors and dealers—without which RARSfest would not be possible—were appreciative of our club's hospitality and the supportive attendees at RARSfest.

All the numbers concerning RARSfest are not available as this is being written, but whatever the numbers say, **RARSfest 2009 was a success!** If you attended or worked during RARSfest, the RARSfest Planning Committee is interested in your comments and suggestions as to how we can make RARSfest even better in 2010. Your comments may be e-mailed to me at ai4rt@hotmail.com.

Thanks again to all who volunteered to work and all who attended RARSfest. You made it happen!

Next RARS Meeting

The May RARS program is "QSL: It's all in the Cards" by Bill McDowell K4CIA. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary, and there will be VE testing in the Education building.

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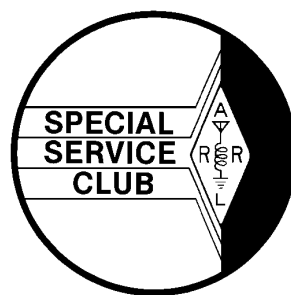


The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for the May *Exciter* is April 17. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

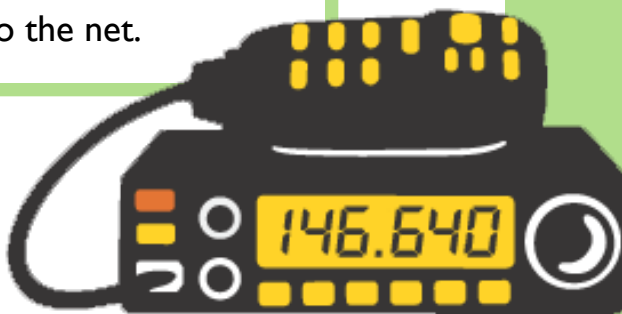
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

March 2009 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 475	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 25/20	Checkins: 90
Minutes: 580	Minutes: 720
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 14

Welcome to RARS!

Joe Barnes	KT4JOE
James Staley	KE6FNW
Jeff Wingfield	KI4JDE

Upcoming Hamfests

- 5/2-3 BirmingHAMfest
Birmingham, AL
<http://www.downeasthamfest.org/>
- 5/2 Upstate Hamfest (SC Section Convention)
Spartanburg, SC
<http://rars.org/hamfest/>
- 5/9 Rockingham Hamfest & Computer Show
Reidsville, NC
<http://w4iax.com/hamfest/>
- 5/9 Heart of Georgia Hamfest
Byron, GA
<http://www.heartofgeorgiahamfest.com/>
- 5/15-17 Dayton Hamvention (ARRL Nat'l Conv.)
Trotwood, OH
<http://www.hamvention.org/>
- 5/23 DurHamFest
Bahama, NC
<http://www.dfma.org/>
- 5/24 Memorial Day Hamfest
West Friendship, MD
<http://marylandfm.org/Hamfest.htm>

May Birthdays

John Robert	KG4HGB	5/4
Ron	KJ4DNS	5/4
Larry	W4WIV	5/5
Sonja	KI4USZ	5/5
Larry	KG4FIQ	5/5
Liz	KO4CK	5/5
Wayne	K6TWX	5/8
Hank	K4HM	5/8
Alanna	K4AAC	5/8
Nancy	KB1HIX	5/10
Brian	KA9QJT	5/10
Bob	NC1X	5/11
Chuck	AE4CD	5/12
Douglas Alexander		5/12
Ed	WA4PEN	5/13
Bob	KI4ZNM	5/15
Cam	KU4VY	5/17
Chris	KE4TMO	5/17
Chris	N4PBQ	5/17
Larry	K1ZW	5/20
Lynn	KG4LTM	5/27
Courtney	KI4HOS	5/27

Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, RARS President

President's Corner

RARSfest 2009 is history, and what a great hamfest it was. There were so many people who played a part in the successful outcome, and if I started naming them, I'd be sure to forget someone. On behalf of RARS, thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the great outcome of the Friday night social and of RARSfest.

Even though the hamfest is over, our calendar is still full of events like the RARSfest Workers' Picnic, other hamfests, public service events, and Field Day. Keeping checking the RARS website for the latest information.

Public Service Events

Learn more and sign up for events on www.hampublicservice.org or www.rars.org.

5/1: Relay for Life. A Friday afternoon event held at the Panther Creek High School in Cary. Hams are needed for event shadows during event set-up and relay preparation. Need 12-13 volunteers.

6/6-6/7: Tour de Cure. Cary, NC to Pinehurst, NC. Operators need to be on site around 7 AM both days. Instead of going to Oxford (just got too big), we will be heading south to the Southern Pines/ Pinehurst area. There will be 4 routes – the Family Ride at Koka Booth, the Triangle Area Ride, the Sandhills Challenge (traditional overnight ride), and the Sandhills Extreme. We will begin and end all rides at the Koka Booth in Cary. The Overnight will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Southern Pines (the finish line for those routes)

Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

March 17, 2009 RARS Board Meeting

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road, Raleigh. The following persons were present: Hank K4HM, Selene KG4RMT, Chuck K4HF, Virginia NC4VA, Jack N6UYB, John AI4RT, Ken KI4OTO, Greg KE4PAX, Karl W4CHX, Steve KJ4BX, Michael KB7NLA, Rod KI4LSN, and Charlie WB4DCM.

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President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved as published. President Selene announced that RARS had received a thank you from John N4YRD for his certificate of appreciation.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that we now have 258 members. Seventy five dollars has been paid to First Alliance Church for the use of their facilities. We still owe them for the use of their facilities for the general class.

VP Karl W4CHX is working on our programs/speakers. We are set through June. He then brought up the issue of refreshments. Refreshments are costing about \$40-\$50 per month. We generally receive about \$20 in contributions to offset the expense. With our dues at \$18 per year, that means about \$12 of the dues goes to refreshments. After much discussion, we decided to increase awareness and use a bigger sign asking for donations.

Committee Reports:

- Virginia NC4VA Education Committee reported that nine folks completed the general class and passed the exam. The tech class will begin on April 25th and the exam will be given on May 9th.
- Courtney, our editor, was not present but has requested minutes and input as quickly as possible.
- Virginia NC4VA announced that the Apex ERC is doing well. She then asked permission for the net to continue using the 146.64 repeater. The Board agreed.
- Virginia NC4VA then brought up the issue of the amount to pay First Alliance Church for the use of their facilities for the classes. After some discussion, a motion was made by Hank K4HM and seconded by Chuck K4HF to donate \$50 for a full day and \$25 for half days.
- Mary KG4IQA Net Operations was not present but apparently is looking for a net control operator. It was suggested that she needs to recruit using the net server.
- Hank K4HM Web Master advised that the RARSFest information is up to date. The program for classified ads is useable.
- Mike WB4BPJ Field Day Chair was not present. Since there is only one more Board meeting between now and Field Day, he will be invited to join us. John AI4RT brought up the issue of the Boy Scouts doing their radio merit badge activities during field day. The issue that field day might be a bad time for beginners to try to get on the air and make contacts was brought up. Also, it would have to be coordinated with field day chair and the property owners.

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- President Selene announced that the VE team would be at the RARSFest and also the May meeting.
 - John AI4RT Public Service advised that we are in the middle of the public service season. He is promoting public service through the nets and on the web.
 - Gary KN4AQ FM Chair was not present but had sent an email report. He indicated that he had finally received the correct filters for the 444.525 and 145.13 repeaters and will try to have them installed by RARSFest time.
 - Chuck K4HF advised that he had sent an email message through the reflector to RARS members seeking help for May 29-31st for the NCS Mini Fest at the fair grounds. The Red Cross will be the sole emergency assistance provider.
 - John AI4RT indicated that he is receiving requests for assistance for some events that do not appear to require amateur radio. What should our involvement be? There was discussion that concluded that we cannot provide assistance to every request. A suggestion was made to put our limitations on the web page. Jack N6UYB offered the use of his commercial radios for the smaller events and could possibly go and help at those small events.
 - Mike KB7NLA advised that he is getting set up for voice announcements on our 146.64 repeater and should have it ready by RARFest.
 - John AI4RT RARSFest chair advised that money was starting to come in. Steve KJ4BX has received reservations for 117 tables.
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Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

April 7, 2009 RARS General Meeting

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at the First Alliance Church, Raleigh, N. C. There were 42 members and guests present..

President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. Visitors included Dick Martin, WW4NC, of Wake Forest, James Staley, KE6FNW, of Apex and Melvin Whitaker. All have now joined RARS. Minutes of the March 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as published in the Exciter.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX gave his report. RARS now has 260 members.

RARSVP Karl, W4CHX, thanked everyone for the donations for the meeting refreshments. The Electronic Sign was the work of Jack, N6UYB. Healthy snacks are

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the norm. The May meeting program will be by Bill McDowell, K4CIA, on all aspects of QSL Cards. The June Meeting will be devoted to the subject of Station Grounding techniques by Alan, AB4OZ and Clyde, WB2EYC. Karl is open to meeting suggestions.

President Selene made the following announcements:

- The RARSfest will be on Saturday, April 11th. Tickets and tables are available tonight.
- The regularly scheduled RARS dinner will be on Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30 PM at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave. Members and guests are welcome.
- The Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Rd. The Annual RARS Budget will be on the agenda. All members are invited to attend.
- The Morganton, NC Hamfest is April 18.
- The Durhamfest is May 24.


Committee Reports:

- Virginia, NC4VA, RARS Education Director advised there will be a new Technician Class on April 25th and May 9th, held at the First Alliance Church. Mike Murphy will be the instructor. Cost is \$25 which includes the study manual and an additional \$15 for the exam.
- Virginia NC4VA Skywarn Coordinator, advised there would be a Spotter Training class on the 146.88 Repeater, after the PCTN Traffic Net on the nights of April 21 and 28. There will also be a Skywarn/NWS Booth and Forum at RARSfest April 11.
- John AI4RT RARS Public Service Director advised there was good ham participation at the Spring Fling in Durham. The next Public Service opportunity will be the MS Walk at the RBC Center on April 25 and the Run for Life on May 1. Go to the RARS Website to check the Events Calendar and Public Service Opportunities.

VP Karl introduced John, AI4RT, our 2009 RARSfest Chairman. John gave a humorous slide presentation of the various hamfest committees, their responsibilities and activities.

The operational areas included: administration, advance registration and flea market, publicity, setup and teardown, security, ticket sales, stage, talk-in, social, VE testing, meetings and forums, youth lounge, contests, N4C Special Event Station, RARS, Test and building project tables. The hamfest treasurer, Chairman and his assistants all “make it happen.” Have you planned to do you part?

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Selene reminded all to join in the after meeting supper at Applebee's. The collection was \$42 – thanks all. Danny Hampton, K4ITL has been awarded Ham of the Year by the 2009 Dayton Hamvention Nominating Committee. Several RARS members will be present to see the presentation at the Dayton hamvention, May 15-17, 2009.

President Selene announced that the next meeting would be on May 5th. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

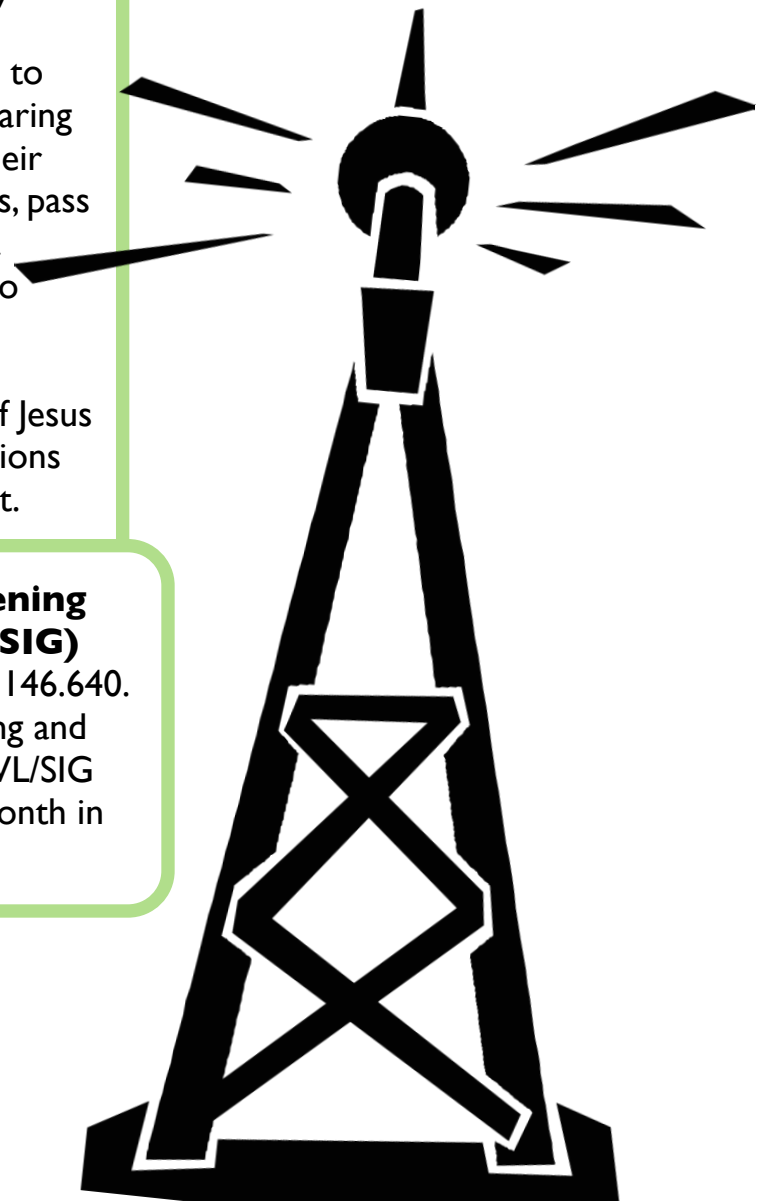
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Join the **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** on Monday evenings @ 9 PM on 146.640. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

May 12: "Highlights of NOAA P3 Visit" with Darin Figskey KC2IPY, NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge.

June 2: "Safe Boating Weather Tips" with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

Looking for the latest scoop on RARS?

Check out www.rars.org for information on
upcoming ham classes, public service opportunities,
amateur radio news, and club happenings!

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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